

# National Survey of Ebola-related knowledge attitudes and practices before the outbreak peak in Sierra Leone, August 2014

## Consent Statement

Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am working with FOCUS 1000 – an NGO in Sierra Leone that works to improve the health of children, women, and their communities. We are conducting a study on the public’s knowledge, attitudes, behaviours, and practices relating to the prevention of Ebola virus disease. The information we collect will help us and other civil society organizations better educate the public about how to effectively prevent the transmission of the disease. The interview will take about 30 - 45 minutes. All of the information you share with us will be kept confidential – meaning that we will not link your name in any reports or identify you as the respondent in any other way. Your participation in this study is voluntary, and you will not be paid. You may choose to stop the interview at any point or refuse to answer questions you do not feel comfortable responding to. There are no right or wrong responses. Therefore we encourage you to be honest and truthful in your responses so that we can accurately understand the on-the-ground situation.

### ASK RESPONDENT:

- Do you have any questions?
- Do I have your permission to continue with the interview?

1. YES I AGREE → continue with interview

2. NO I DECLINE → END

**By signing below, I attest that I have read the above statement to the participant and he/she has agreed to continue with the interview. I have also addressed all of his/her questions and/or concerns.**

SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWER: .....

DATE (Day, Month, Year): /\_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_/

## Questionnaire Items Mapped to Manuscript Tables

Table 1: Sociodemographic Characteristics

**1. District**

- a. Bo
- b. Kailahun
- c. Kambia
- d. Kenema
- e. Koinadugu
- f. Moyamba
- g. Port Loko
- h. Western Urban
- i. Western Rural

**1. Gender** \_\_\_\_\_ Male                      Female \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Age:** \_\_\_\_\_ years

**3. What is your highest level of education?**

- a. No formal education
- b. Some primary school
- c. Completed primary school
- d. Completed Junior Secondary School (JSS)
- e. Completed Senior Secondary School (SSS)
- f. Completed Diploma / Postsecondary Training
- g. Completed Bachelors
- h. Completed Masters / Doctorate
- i. Declined to answer

**4. What is your religion?**

- a. Islam
- b. Christianity
- c. Other \_\_\_\_\_
- d. I don't hold any religious beliefs
- e. Declined to answer

Table 2A: Awareness and risk perception

**5. Have you heard of Ebola before (prior to this interview)?**

- a. Yes
- b. No (*if selected, end survey here*)
- c. Declined to answer

**6. Do you believe that Ebola exists in Sierra Leone?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know / not sure
- d. Declined to answer

- 7. Is it possible to survive and recover from Ebola?**
- Yes
  - No
  - I don't know / not sure
  - Declined to answer
- 8. Do you think it is possible for someone to have Ebola and not show/report its signs or symptoms?**
- Yes
  - No
  - I don't know / not sure
  - Declined to answer
- 9. Do you know the number to call to report a suspected Ebola case or ask questions about Ebola?**
- Yes (If so, what is the number? \_\_\_\_\_); *Enumerator: Correct* \_\_\_ *Incorrect* \_\_\_
  - No
  - Not sure
  - Declined to answer
- 10. What level of risk do you think you have in getting Ebola in the next 6 months?**
- No risk
  - Small risk
  - Moderate risk
  - Great risk
  - I don't know / not sure
  - Declined to answer

Table 2B: Knowledge of Ebola cause

- 11. What causes Ebola? (select all applicable choices)**
- Virus
  - Bats / Monkeys / Chimpanzees / Other wild animals
  - God or higher power
  - Witchcraft
  - Evildoing / Sin
  - Curse
  - Others \_\_\_\_\_
  - I don't know/ not sure
  - Declined to answer

Table 2C: Knowledge of Ebola modes of transmission

- 12. How does a person get Ebola? (select all applicable choices)**
- By air
  - Bad odor or smell
  - Preparing bush meat as a meal (such as chimpanzees, monkeys, and other wild animals)
  - Eating bush meat
  - Eating fruits likely to have been bitten by bats
  - Saliva of an infected person
  - Blood of an infected person

- h. Sweat of an infected person
- i. Urine of an infected person
- j. Feces of an infected person
- k. Breast milk of an infected person
- l. Sperm or vaginal fluid of an infected person
- m. Shaking the hands of an infected person
- n. Other physical contact with an infected person
- o. God's will
- p. Witchcraft
- q. Others \_\_\_\_\_
- r. I don't know / not sure
- s. Declined to answer

Table 2D: Knowledge of Ebola signs and symptoms

**13. What are some of the signs and symptoms of someone infected with Ebola? (select all applicable choices)**

- a. Any Fever
- b. Sudden onset of high fever
- c. Severe headache
- d. Muscle pain
- e. Weakness
- f. Diarrhea (with or without blood)
- g. Vomiting (with or without blood)
- h. Abdominal (stomach) pain
- i. Lack of appetite
- j. Sore throat
- k. Rash
- l. Difficulty breathing
- m. Bleeding (internal or external)
- n. Others \_\_\_\_\_
- o. I don't know / not sure
- p. Declined to answer

Table 3A: Knowledge of Ebola prevention and treatment

**14. Can I prevent myself from getting Ebola by avoiding contact with blood and body fluids?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know / not sure
- d. Declined to answer

**15. Can I prevent myself from getting Ebola by avoiding funeral or burial rituals that require handling the body of someone who has died from Ebola?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know / not sure
- d. Declined to answer

**16. Can people help protect themselves from Ebola by not touching anyone else?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know / not sure
- d. Declined to answer

**17. If a person has Ebola he/she has a higher chance of survival if he/she goes immediately to a Health Facility?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know / not sure
- d. Declined to answer

**18. If a person with Ebola goes immediately to a Health Facility he/she will reduce the chance of spreading it to family/people living with?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know / not sure
- d. Declined to answer

Table 3B: Misconceptions of Ebola transmission, prevention, and treatment

**19. Can I prevent myself from getting Ebola by bathing with salt and hot water?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know / not sure
- d. Declined to answer

**20. Can Ebola be transmitted through the air?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know / not sure
- d. Declined to answer

**21. Can a person get Ebola from mosquito bites?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know / not sure
- d. Declined to answer

**22. Do you believe that spiritual healers can treat Ebola successfully?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know / not sure
- d. Declined to answer

**23. Do you believe that traditional healers can treat Ebola successfully?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know / not sure

- d. Declined to answer

Table 3C: Perceptions of health facilities

**24. What happens if someone suspected of having Ebola goes to the hospital / health facility?  
(select all applicable choices)**

- a. They won't be able to do anything for him/her and may die there
- b. They will take care of him/her (rehydrate, give medicines/food, monitor status)
- c. They will definitely cure the person from Ebola
- d. They will find a way to kill the patient so that he/she doesn't spread Ebola to others
- e. Others \_\_\_\_\_
- f. I don't know / not sure
- g. Declined to answer

Table 3D: Perceptions of Ebola Treatment Centers (ETC) and quarantine measures

**25. Do you agree that if a person has been diagnosed with Ebola must be admitted in an Ebola Treatment Centre?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know / not sure
- d. Declined to answer

**26. Do you agree that people who have been in direct contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Ebola must be quarantined for 3 weeks?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know / not sure
- d. Declined to answer

Table 3E: Health seeking behavioral intentions

**27. Would you go the hospital or health facility if you suspect that you may have contracted Ebola?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know / not sure
- d. Declined to answer

**28. If you had a high fever would you go to a health facility?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know / not sure
- d. Declined to answer

Table 3F: Behavioral intentions if family member suspected of Ebola

**29. What would you do if you suspect someone in your family has Ebola? (select all applicable choices)**

- a. Nothing
- b. Help care for the person at home (e.g., clean up their excretions / vomit; help bathe them)
- c. Check their temperature by touching their body
- d. Avoid all physical contact and bodily fluids of that person
- e. Call the hospital / Ebola phone line
- f. Take the person to the hospital
- g. Others \_\_\_\_\_
- h. I don't know / not sure
- i. Declined to answer

Table 3G: Self-reported prevention practices

**30. Since you heard of Ebola, have you taken any action to avoid being infected?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know / can't remember
- d. Declined to answer

**31. In what ways have you changed your behavior or took actions to avoid being infected?**

- a. I wash my hands with soap and water
- b. I wash my hands with just water
- c. I clean my hands with other disinfectants
- d. I try to avoid crowded places
- e. I drink Bittercola
- f. I drink a lot of water / juice
- g. I drink traditional herbs (e.g. gbangban)
- h. I take antibiotics (e.g. penicillin, amoxilin)
- i. I wear gloves (if so ask, how many times you change the gloves daily: \_\_\_\_\_)
- j. I try to avoid physical contact with people I suspect may have Ebola
- k. I avoid physical contact with everyone
- l. Others \_\_\_\_\_
- m. I don't know / not sure
- n. Declined to answer

Table 4A: Attitudes toward Ebola survivors

**32. Do you think that a school pupil who has survived Ebola and has a certificate from a Government Health Facility stating he/she is Ebola-free puts other pupils in their class at risk of infection?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know / not sure
- d. Declined to answer

**33. If you knew a shopkeeper who survived Ebola and has a certificate from a Government Health Facility stating he/she is Ebola free, would you buy fresh vegetables from him or her?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know / not sure
- d. Declined to answer

**34. Would you welcome someone back into your community/neighbourhood after he/she has recovered from Ebola?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know / not sure
- d. Declined to answer

Table 4B: Perceptions of Ebola vaccine and experimental treatment

**35. If there was an approved vaccine that could prevent Ebola, would you accept it for yourself?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure / don't know
- d. Declined to answer

**36. If there was an approved vaccine that could prevent Ebola, would you accept it for your children?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not applicable (*I don't have any children*)
- d. I don't know / not sure
- e. Declined to answer

**37. Imagine you had Ebola, and there was a treatment that has shown promising results when given to animals infected with Ebola but has never been used in humans. Would you be willing to accept this treatment?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know / not sure
- d. Declined to answer

**38. Imagine your relative had Ebola, and there was a treatment that has shown promising results when given to animals infected with Ebola but has never been used in humans. Would you be willing to approve the use of this treatment for your relative?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know / not sure
- d. Declined to answer



Table 5A: Sources of receiving Ebola-related information

**39. Through what means/ways did you learn about Ebola? (select all applicable choices)**

- a. Radio
- b. Television
- c. Megaphone public announcements
- d. Church / Mosque / other religious venues
- e. Relatives / Friends / Community members
- f. Newspaper / Flyers / Brochures / Other print materials
- g. Internet / Blog / Website / Social Media / Facebook
- h. Mobile phone / text messages
- i. I don't know / not sure
- j. Others \_\_\_\_\_
- k. Declined to answer

**40. During the last 4 weeks how often have you listened to the radio?**

- a. Every day
- b. At least once a week
- c. Less than once a week
- d. Did not listen to radio in last 4 weeks
- e. Don't know
- f. Declined to answer

Table 5B: Trusted sources of Ebola-related information

**41. Who do you trust to get accurate health information from? (select all applicable choices)**

- a. No one
- b. Government / Ministry of Health and Sanitation / Wellbodi Ministry
- c. The media
- d. Health and medical professionals
- e. Relatives and friends
- f. Religious leaders (e.g., pastor, Imam)
- g. Traditional healers
- h. Others \_\_\_\_\_
- i. I don't know / not sure
- j. Declined to answer

Table 5C: Ebola information gaps

**42. Do you need more information on Ebola?**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know / not sure
- d. Declined to answer

**43. What area(s) do you need additional information on?**

- a. Cause / origin of the disease
- b. Signs and symptoms of the disease
- c. Ways to prevent the disease
- d. Medical care and treatment options for those with the disease
- e. Others \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Declined to answer